



AARTA

# Reader

November 2012

**Aurora Area Retired Teachers' Association**

*Over 50 years of working for retired teachers in Kane County to . . .*

- \* use our influence for the passage of favorable legislation in Springfield, Illinois and Washington, D. C.
- \* improve our communication channels for more effective member participation
- \* keep our membership informed of current Teachers' Retirement System changes



## President's Message

As president a real source of enjoyment for me is the diversity of our membership. The number and variety of our programs and opportunities for service that AARTA offers seems to me to fit the needs and interests of virtually every segment of our membership. We hope that all of our members will become involved in something that meets their interests and talents, and allows for interaction with other members.

We are hoping to have a representative from the Vaughn Center present our group membership opportunity at our next luncheon. The rate of this group membership is the best Vaughn offers but requires 21 members to sign up. We'd like to get this underway by January. I will have applications at our December luncheon.

Speaking of our December 4 luncheon at 12:00, please plan to attend this special Christmas program. It always puts everyone in the holiday spirit! We are always looking to increase our membership, so this would be an excellent opportunity to invite a friend. I look forward to seeing a good turnout for this affair, and wishing each of you a safe, happy and healthy holiday season.

*Ron Nickerson*

### Legislative Contacts

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*Visit our website and  
make it one of your favorites!*

[www.auroraarearetiredteachersassociation.org](http://www.auroraarearetiredteachersassociation.org)



## Warm Fuzzies

This is the ninth year that we will be making lap blankets for area senior centers. In the last two years alone, we have given away over 100 items. Please join us in this important community outreach program.

### Blankets:

- **may be made of any washable material**
- **may be tied, knitted, crocheted or quilted**
- **should be approximately 30-36 inches wide and 36-48 inches long**
- **will be collected and distributed June 4, 2013**

Directions for tied fleece blankets will be available at each of our luncheon meetings.



*Health is the greatest gift, contentment the greatest wealth, faithfulness the best relationship.*  
Buddha

*“A book is a gift you can open again and again.”*  
Garrison Keillor

*The best gift you can give is a hug: one size fits all and no one ever minds if you return it.*  
Marge Piercy

*If I were given the opportunity to present a gift to the next generation, it would be the ability for each individual to learn to laugh at himself.*

Charles M. Schulz



## IRTA Foundation Scholarship

The IRTA is offering a grant of up to \$1,500 to a student who is a resident of Illinois or has graduated from an Illinois high school. Applicants must be accepted into a Teacher Certification Program. Applications must be received by March 7, 2013. Additional information and application blanks can be found on our website.

## AARTA Scholarship

Each year AARTA gives a scholarship to a student in our area who will be going to a community college. This fund is administered by the Fox River Valley Community Foundation. \$1000 from our 2013 dues will be provided for this. All other contributions to our scholarship fund—from the 50/50 luncheon raffle or individual donations—will be used to bring us closer to the \$10,000 we need to become an endowment fund which will provide scholarship funds in perpetuity. Once we become an endowment fund, interest earned on our account, along with any donated funds, may be used to create more or larger scholarships. To date, we have accrued \$3890.70 in our fund. All donations to the Community Foundation are tax deductible.

According to information on the Community Foundation website: *All contributions to the Community Foundation fulfill charitable purposes. No gift is used to defray the operating expenses of our organization unless a donor designates his or her gift for placement in our [Community Foundation's] Administrative Endowment Fund.* This means that 100% of your donations to the AARTA Scholarship Fund will put into our scholarship fund.\*

Contribution envelopes are available on the information table at each of our luncheons. You may also donate online by going to [www.communityfoundationfrv.org](http://www.communityfoundationfrv.org).

\*If you contribute by credit card, credit card fees will be deducted from your donation.

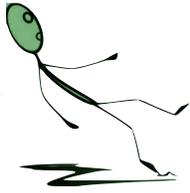
## Scholarship Liaison Needed

The AARTA Board is looking for a person who will be in touch with our 2013 scholarship winner. This would involve attending one board meeting a year (probably in May) and hosting our winner at the June lunch.

If this is a way that you could help the AARTA, please contact Ron Nickerson.



## HEALTH NOTES from FAY WILSON



### In Remembrance

**John Daraban**, February 16, 1925 - August 7, 2012, was a band instructor at Roanoke-Benson High School for many years.

*If you know of the death of anyone who has ever been a member of AARTA, please contact Barb Zillgitt ([barbzillgitt@earthlink.net](mailto:barbzillgitt@earthlink.net) or 630-896-2451).*

*AARTA remembers each of these members with a \$15 donation to the IRTA Foundation and with contributions to our scholarship fund.*

2013 membership dues must be received by December 31, 2012, in order for your name to be included in the 2013 directory. In addition, if you have not renewed your membership by the end of the year, your email address will be removed from our list of contacts.

### Avoiding Falls this Winter

Winter is fast approaching. That means scenes of ice and snow to impress us, as Mother Nature always does. However, winter's beauty has its down side as in one of us "falling" down. Let me remind everyone to be cautious and follow these few suggestions.

- Check footwear, making sure shoes provide good traction on icy walkways.
- Keep sidewalks and driveways clear and de-iced.
- Check hand railings leading into your home. Are they secure and strong enough to support you if you lose your footing?
- Always use the railings! Their purpose is to help catch you if you lose your balance.
- Carry a cell phone at all times. (if you don't really care to have one, you can get one from police stations for 911 calls only. The phone and service is free.) If you do fall, help can be there in minutes.
- Try to have a plan in case you do fall in areas you frequent most. You will panic less and be better equipped to seek help.
- Keep yourself in good condition. Exercise to strengthen your legs and increase your balance.
- Lastly, slow down, take one step at a time. Enjoy this winter season while Mother Earth rests and prepares for spring!

Source: Taborview Newsletter, Tabor Hills, Naperville, Illinois

Dorothy Ellis, who sends cards for AARTA, is in need of birthday, get-well and sympathy cards. If you have cards to donate, bring them to the next lunch or give them to any board member.



## Tours of China

The Chinese American Cultural Bridge Center (CACBC), a non-profit organization promoting cultural exchange since 1992, is offering three educational program tours for current and retired educators alike. You may find out more information by going to their website: [http://www.cacbc.org/Educational\\_Tours/](http://www.cacbc.org/Educational_Tours/)

### Lunch dates for 2012-13

December 4, 2012  
February 5, 2013  
April 2, 2013  
June 4, 2013

## Remember —

This year our lunch meetings begin at 12:00 noon.



Get a Ride —  
Give a Ride

If you need a ride to the AARTA lunches, we may be able to help you. Call Meg Safarik, 630-896-7274, who may be able to match you with a driver.

If you are able to provide a ride for someone or would be willing to coordinate rides, let Meg know. Your help would be greatly appreciated!

## Aurora Area Retired Teachers Association!

Vaughan Athletic Center and Aurora Area Retired Teachers Association are teaming up to offer all members special discounted rates!

### Fitness Membership

**\$155 per person for the year**

- More than 200 pieces of state-of-the-art strength and cardiovascular equipment
- Two running/walking tracks: 1/6 mile and 1/8 mile
- Field House for basketball and volleyball
- More than 90 group exercise classes, including aerobics, cycling, yoga and Pilates

### All-Inclusive Membership

**\$232 per person for the year**

- All the benefits of Fitness Memberships PLUS...
- Free use of Aquatic Center featuring a water park, lap pool and therapy pool plus discounted aquatic program fees
- Reduced fees on the nine-court indoor Tennis Center

For more information on Corporate Memberships or the Vaughan Athletic Center, please contact Hayden Howes at [hhowes@fvpd.net](mailto:hhowes@fvpd.net).



**V**AUGHAN  
ATHLETIC CENTER

Vaughan Athletic Center  
2121 W. Indian Trail, Aurora  
630-907-9600  
[foxvalleyparkdistrict.org](http://foxvalleyparkdistrict.org)

Fox Valley  
Park District  
Where fun begins

## Tutoring Opportunity

Are you interested in tutoring in an after-school SES (Special Education Services) program coming up in West Aurora School District 129? The tutoring program will begin right after Thanksgiving in seven elementary schools, Monday through Thursday, from 2:30 to 3:30. Certified teachers will earn \$30 per hour, and no lesson planning is required. If you are interested, contact Mary Finn at 630-277-3147 or [mary@huntington-learning.com](mailto:mary@huntington-learning.com).

Join IRTA for just \$2.00 a month.

Contact the IRTA at [www.irtaonline.org](http://www.irtaonline.org).

happy birthday!

# October Lunch

## November

Kendra Nohl	1
Identa Austin	2
Anna Sanford	3
Barbara Worthington	4
Maureen Granger	6
Joann Morr	6
Alison King	10
Joanne Cryer	11
Jo Rydland	11
Kay Flodstrom	12
Pauline Scharf	14
Gloria Jones	16
Rosa Jackson	26
LaVerne Taylor	30

## December

Sue Schindel	3
Art Zillgitt	3
LaRee Jacobson	6
Meg Safarik	11
Yvonne Hollingsworth	14
Dick Schindel	14
Joann Verdeyen	14
Kathy Navota	15
Sandy Flannigan	22
Mary Frazer	24
Ruth Hogan	25
Margi Matlock	25
Jim Mayer	27
Susan Skelley	27
Mary Barbee	31
Mary Kay Godfrey	31
Janet Strauss	31
Ed Young	31

## January

Laura Morrison	1
Margaret Hardy	2
Frank Babich	4
Elizabeth Moore	5
Fay Wilson	11
Mary Jane McFee	16
Gloria Goodin	25
Laurel Haase	28
Dick Paul	29



If you would like to have your birthday listed in The Reader, send your information to [aurorartdtchrs@hotmail.com](mailto:aurorartdtchrs@hotmail.com) or contact Barb Zillgitt at 630-896-2451.



## Go-to People

If you need to contact someone from the AARTA to share information or solve a problem, here are the people that can help:

**Change of address:** Sue Fitzsimons, 630.896.7419

**Change of email address:** Meg Safarik, 630.896.7274

**Legislation:** Jerry Lubshina, 630.896.0029, or Linda Allison, 630.355.0690

**Lunch reservations:** Ann Luker, 630.466.4705, or Joanne Hughes, 630.292.4416

**Membership questions:** Sue Fitzsimons, 630.896.7419

For a **membership form**, contact Sue or go to our website:

[www.auroraarearetiredteachersassociation.org](http://www.auroraarearetiredteachersassociation.org)

**Missing Readers:** email: Meg Safarik, 630.896.7274; US mail: Barb Zillgitt, 630-896-2451.

**Newsletter items, Warm Fuzzies, scholarship fund:** Barb Zillgitt, 630.896.2451; [barbzillgitt@earthlink.net](mailto:barbzillgitt@earthlink.net)

**Programs:** Arlene Hawks, 630.986.6001; Dick Schindel, 630.898.1307

**You may also contact us by email at [aurorardtchrs@hotmail.com](mailto:aurorardtchrs@hotmail.com).**

## Minutes from Our Last General Meeting

October 2, 2012, AARTA Luncheon at Gaslite Manor

President Ron Nickerson welcomed us and reminded us of the new meeting time of 12:00. We were led in the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of "God Bless America." Dorothy Ellis led us in the "Thought for the Day." Ron welcomed Kay Hatcher, our state representative. The secretary's report was approved, and Meg Safarik (treasurer) reported a balance of \$6,883.03 in our treasury of which \$1000 will go to our scholarship winner.

Approximately 20 new members were introduced by Yvonne Hollingsworth and Pam Colwell. Sue Fitzsimons reported that we have close to 400 members with new memberships still coming in.

Jerry Lubshina said that more pension news would be forthcoming after the election. He reported about a proposed constitutional amendment regarding pensions, and we were advised to vote "No" on this amendment. He distributed a flyer to all of us about this. Jerry announced that an upcoming book fair will be held in East Aurora and volunteers are needed. Marlin Mittag gave us all a survey concerning members' benefits.

Dick Schindel reported on an upcoming casino trip to Dubuque, Iowa on Oct. 30 and possibilities for a hockey game in Feb. or March. Arlene Hawks spoke about tickets for the upcoming Drury Lane performance of *Singing in the Rain*. The date is Nov. 21 and people were encouraged to sign up. Arlene said that another musical opportunity to Drury Lane will be in the spring. Arlene also announced about the programs for our upcoming meetings. Our next luncheon meeting will be on Dec. 4.

Barb Zillgitt also reported that 66 "warm fuzzies" were delivered to area nursing homes. Meg Safarik talked about our new website. Fay Wilson spoke of the dangers of West Nile Virus, Lyme Disease, and Cellulitis.

We were all then treated to a performance of Chinese dancing from the Sunny Performing Arts Dance Group from Buffalo Grove, IL. We ended with the 50/50 raffle and were adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Margaret Nickerson*, Secretary

# 1201120183

Every time you buy something or recycle ink cartridges at **Office Depot**, anywhere in the country, you can help lower printing costs for AARTA. Since August, we have saved over \$60 in printing costs by using coupons and our reward cards.

Just let the clerk know our account number which is listed above. We will get money back—and it's all legal.

Thank you for your help.



*Thanksgiving dinners take eighteen hours to prepare. They are consumed in twelve minutes. Half-times take twelve minutes. This is not coincidence.*

Erma Bombeck



**My cooking is so bad my kids thought Thanksgiving was to commemorate Pearl Harbor.**

Phyllis Diller

*An optimist is a person who starts a new diet on Thanksgiving Day.*

Irv Kupcinet



**You know that just before that first Thanksgiving dinner there was one wise, old Native American woman saying, "Don't feed them. If you feed them, they'll never leave."**

Dylan Brody

## AARTA Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

<p><b>President:</b> <i>Ron Nickerson</i>  <b>Secretary:</b> <i>Margaret Nickerson</i>  <b>Treasurer:</b> <i>Meg Safarik</i>  <b>Immediate Past President:</b> <i>Maureen Granger</i>  <b>Foundation Services &amp; Welfare:</b> <i>Kirk Harding</i>  <b>Health Information &amp; Protective Services:</b>  <i>Fay Wilson</i>  <b>Legislative:</b> <i>Linda Allison, Jerry Lubshina</i>  <b>Member Benefits:</b> <i>Marlin Mittag</i></p>	<p><b>Membership:</b> <i>Sue Fitzsimons, Tom Griffith</i>  <b>Newsletter:</b> <i>Barb Zillgitt</i>  <b>Program:</b> <i>Arlene Hawks, Dick Schindel</i>  <b>Public Relations:</b> <i>Bill Spence</i>  <b>Retirement Education:</b> <i>Yvonne Hollingsworth,</i>  <i>Pamela Colwell</i>  <b>Sunshine:</b> <i>Dorothy Ellis</i>  <b>Directory:</b> <i>Dennis Erford, Tom Griffith</i>  <b>Reservations:</b> <i>Ann Luker, Joanne Hughes</i></p>
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*Board meetings are held at 9:00 a.m. on the first Tuesday of January, March, May, September and November at Jennings Terrace, 275 S. LaSalle, Aurora.*

*General luncheon meetings are at 12:00 on the first Tuesday of February, April, June, October and December at Gaslite Manor, 2485 Church Road, Aurora.*

*Newsletter items are due on the first Tuesday of January, March, May, September and November.*



Because of continuing construction work near Gaslite Manor, it is best to take Farnsworth/Kirk to Corporate Blvd. west; then go north on Church Road. There are white signs on Farnsworth, Corporate Blvd. and Church Road to direct you.



## LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS

**Program:** Batavia High School Madrigals  
**Where:** Gaslite Manor, 2485 Church Road, Aurora  
**When:** Tuesday, December 4, 2012, 12:00  
**Price:** \$15.00  
**Reservation due date:** Monday, November 26, 2012



Last name that begins with the letter A through L -

Send a check made out to AARTA to: **Joanne Hughes, 243 S. Randall Road, Aurora, IL 60506**

Last name that begins with M through Z -

Send a check made out to AARTA to: **Ann Luker, 1978 Fay's Lane, Sugar Grove, IL 60554**

Number of reservations _____	Number of VEGETARIAN MEALS _____
Name _____	\$15.00
Name _____	\$ _____
Total \$ _____	

# Celebrate the Holidays - Madrigal Style

Tuesday, December 4, 2012

Gaslite Manor

12:00 lunch

Batavia High School Madrigals

Bring a guest!



## Menu

Salad w/assorted dressings  
Rolls/Butter  
Orange Glazed Roast Pork  
Roasted Herb Potatoes  
Carrots/Broccoli Mix  
Applesauce  
Peppermint Ice Cream  
Sundae  
Coffee/Tea  
Cash Bar